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PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2172

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shinichi YADA

Application No.:   09/977,306

Filed: October 16, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2172

Examiner: I. Woo

Docket No.:   110870

For: ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVER, ELECTRONIC
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CLIENT, ELECTRONIC INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR RECORDING
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER
FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AUG 0 9 2004

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In reply to the July 1, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration is respectfully requested in

view of the following remarks. Claims 1-31 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10-17 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over

Athing (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,498); and rejects claims 8, 9 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) over Kelley (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,088). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Athing does not disclose or suggest deciding means for deciding whether_electronic

information is to be deleted from a feature extracted by a feature extracting means based on an

instruction from a client, and deleting means for deleting from a storing means via a network

unnecessary electronic information decided to be deleted by a deciding means, as recited in

independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 2 and 3. Athing discloses in Fig. 18, and col. 12, lines 20-47 that an e-mail display screen, whose configuration is selected by the user, displays e-mail messages. A row of display window screen buttons provides user operations to compose, send, reply, and delete messages.

However, nowhere does Athing disclose or suggest that electronic information is to be deleted from a feature extracted by a feature extracting means. Therefore, it follows that Athing does not disclose or suggest deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means. Therefore, Athing does not disclose or suggest deleting means for deleting from storing means via a network unnecessary electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

Regarding independent claim 10, Athing discloses a credit card operated computer on-line service communication system (see Abstract of Athing). Athing does not pertain to an electronic information management client for classification and retrieval of documents that instructs deletion of unnecessary electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network. Therefore, Athing does not disclose or suggest instructing and operating means for instructing a feature of the unnecessary electronic information to be deleted, as recited in claim 10.

Regarding independent claim 12, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest deciding whether electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on instruction from a client, and deleting from storing means via a network unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

Regarding independent claim 13, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest extracting a feature from stored electronic information, and deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted

feature based on an instruction from a client, and <u>deleting unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted</u>.

Regarding independent claim 22, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>inputting a feature of electronic information to be deleted</u>, and giving <u>a deletion execution instruction to unnecessary electronic information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the input feature</u>.

Regarding independent claim 23, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>inputting a feature of electronic information</u> from terminal equipment and <u>extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means</u> of the terminal equipment, and <u>deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing means</u>, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

Regarding independent claim 24, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>inputting a feature of electronic information</u> from terminal equipment and <u>extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means</u> of the terminal equipment, <u>transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means</u> to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment, and <u>deleting unnecessary transferred electronic information from the storing means</u>.

Regarding independent claim 27, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>accepting an input of a feature of electronic information</u> from terminal equipment and <u>extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in the storing means</u> of the terminal equipment, and <u>deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object</u> from the storing means, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

Regarding independent claim 28, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means</u> connected to a network, <u>deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature</u> based on an instruction from a client, and <u>deleting from the storing means</u> via a network <u>unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted</u>.

Regarding independent claim 29, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest storing electronic information sent via network in temporary storing means and <u>deleting unnecessary electronic information stored in the temporary storing means at a predetermined timing</u>.

Regarding independent claim 30, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>accepting a feature of the electronic information to be deleted</u>, and <u>accepting a deletion execution instruction for unnecessary electronic information that is to be deleted</u> and extracted from the storing means according to the accepted feature.

Regarding independent claim 31, for reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, Athing does not disclose or suggest <u>accepting an input of a feature of electronic information</u> from terminal equipment and <u>extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means</u> of the terminal equipment, and <u>transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage</u> server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment and <u>deleting unnecessary transferred electronic information from the storing means</u>.

Regarding independent claim 8, Kelley does not disclose or suggest <u>temporary storing means for temporarily storing electronic information</u> sent via a network and <u>deleting means for deleting unnecessary electronic information stored in the temporary storing means at a predetermined timing</u>.

The Office Action admits that Kelley does not explicitly disclose temporarily storing electronic information. The Office Action, however, asserts that because Kelley discloses "automatically" deleting e-mail message from a server from a delete transaction by either the originator or receiver of the e-mail message, and thus, this is the same as temporarily storing electronic information. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, Applicant disagrees that the term "automatically" and the term "temporary" are the same.

As defined in the American Heritage College Dictionary, 3rd edition, the term "automatic" usually refers to an act done in a manner independent of external influence or control. The term "temporary", on the other hand, refers to a thing being enjoyed for a limited time. Accordingly, Kelley does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 8.

Regarding independent claim 18, this claim is allowable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 8.

Therefore, independent claims 1-3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 18, 22-24 and 27-31, define patentable subject matter. Claims 4-7, 9, 11, 14-17, 19-21, 25 and 26 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 6, 2004

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